

August 25, 2011

TO: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief; Laurie Hanauska-Brown, Non-Game Special Section Chief

FROM: Pat Flowers, Region 3 Supervisor

SUBJECT: Wolf Management

I appreciated our August 15, 2011 meeting regarding wolf management in Helena. I also thought it was important to follow up with Region 3 staff to clarify wolf management issues within the region. We had that meeting on August 24, 2011. We touched on many of the same issues we discussed at our Helena meeting and clarified management direction at the Regional level. I thought it would be valuable to share that direction here.

COLLARING: Region 3 will continue to attempt to get a collar in every wolf pack where potential conflict exists with livestock, as opportunities arise or as practical. Our expectation is that we will only average collaring about 50% -- 75% of known packs at any one time, given staffing, the realities of trapping, and collars removed from the population through hunting and management removals in response to depredation. If we want to increase the percentage of collared packs we will have to increase staffing or other funding for trapping efforts.

We will not attempt to collar wolves in areas of the Region that have substantial grizzly bear populations except when we expect grizzly bears are denning. This will avoid inadvertent trapping of grizzly bears and avoid substantial safety risk for our employees and in some cases the public.

DEPREDATION RESPONSE: Region 3 will continue to apply an incremental approach for removal of wolves in response to depredation. In new packs or those with no history of conflict with livestock and in areas with no chronic depredation history, we will first attempt to get a collar in the pack and we may remove one or two wolves in response to the first depredation, as always depending on specific circumstances. Subsequent depredation will generally result in removal of half the remaining pack, and additional depredations will call for full pack removal. In areas where chronic depredation occurs we will typically remove half of the wolves in the pack in response to the first depredation and the

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Exhibit 13

remainder of the pack in response to subsequent depredations. We think this approach will conserve wolves as called for in the Wolf Management Plan, and allow us to continue to build tolerance and acceptance of wolves on the landscape. We will also continue to review and adjust our response to better meet the intent.

WILDLIFE SERVICES:

We will continue to work cooperatively with Wildlife Services to complete investigations of alleged depredations and in depredation response. To this end, please let us know when and under what conditions Wildlife Services is funded by FWP. This information will help us in discussions with landowners and other interests.

RESPONSE TO WOLVES HARASSING LIVESTOCK: Montana law allows that wolves may be shot by anyone when they are harassing livestock. On private land this would require landowner approval. We also interpret "harassing" to mean actively chasing or maneuvering livestock in a way that could lead to depredation. We understand that other Regions may not view this provision similarly, and we think all regions need consistency on this point. I ask that you lead an effort to develop a consistent statewide approach on this issue.

Please let me know if we need to talk further on any of our regional approach to wolf management outlined here. Also, please follow-up with me on the Wildlife Services and "harassment" issues when you have answers.

CC: Howard Burt, Mike Ross, Nathan Lance, Abby Nelson, Sam Sheppard, Jim Kropp